

SmartSoft *Custom Software Engineering for Microsoft® Operating Systems*

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

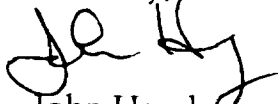
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to urge the Department of Justice to move forward expeditiously with its proposed settlement with Microsoft. I have followed this antitrust lawsuit very closely after working for Microsoft from 1989 through 1994. I currently work as an independent software engineer helping hardware and software manufactures bring innovative products to the American public.

I feel the proposed settlement is a fair proposal. The terms of the settlement show Microsoft's desire to correct what the government feels are improper practices. Stiffer terms would punish Microsoft for operating successfully within our free enterprise system. The nine states agreeing to the settlement terms are encouraging innovation, strengthening the economy and the tech industry both at state and national levels. These terms give companies the ability to develop Windows based software applications faster, utilizing far less resources, which keeps development costs down and ultimately benefits consumers by allowing them to spend less for better applications.

In conclusion, I fully support having the proposed settlement put into force without delay. This will greatly benefit innovation in the tech industry, benefit consumers, and spur state and national economic growth.

Sincerely,



John Hensley